

WHAT IS RCOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County is Michigan's largest county road commission, with a 2,700-mile road system (including 800 miles of gravel roads). Only the state highway system is larger.

RCOC also maintains:

- ◆ Approximately 80 bridges,
- ◆ Approximately 1,200 traffic signals,
- ◆ Approximately 120,000 traffic signs and
- ◆ More than 230 miles of state highway.

SAFETY FIRST

As a matter of policy, major road improvement projects are conducted by the Road Commission based on a safety ranking system. At RCOC "Safety First" is more than a motto.



RCOC:

- ✓ Is separate from county general government and does not receive any revenue from property taxes
- ✓ Receives the majority of its funding from the state-collected gas tax
- ✓ Has congested roads due to the tremendous growth in the county
- ✓ Receives no direct revenue from growth and development
- ✓ Pays as much as \$1.5 million to pave a mile of gravel road
- ✓ Pays approx. \$6 million to widen one mile of road from two lanes to five
- ✓ Is located in a state with a gas tax below the national average
- ✓ Is located in a state that ranks in the bottom nine states in per capita road funding

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

31001 Lahser Road • Beverly Hills • MI 48025

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

LARRY P. CRAKE

RUDY D. LOZANO

RICHARD G. SKARRITT

Brent O. Bair

Managing Director

Dennis Kolar, P.E.

*Deputy Managing Director
County Highway Engineer*

RCOC MISSION STATEMENT

RCOC strives to provide the public with leadership in:

- Safe and convenient roads
- Sound financial management
- Responsive and dependable service

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

CALL OR WRITE:

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN SERVICES
2420 PONTIAC LAKE ROAD
WATERFORD, MI 48328

TOLL-FREE: (877) 858-4804

TDD: (248) 858-8005

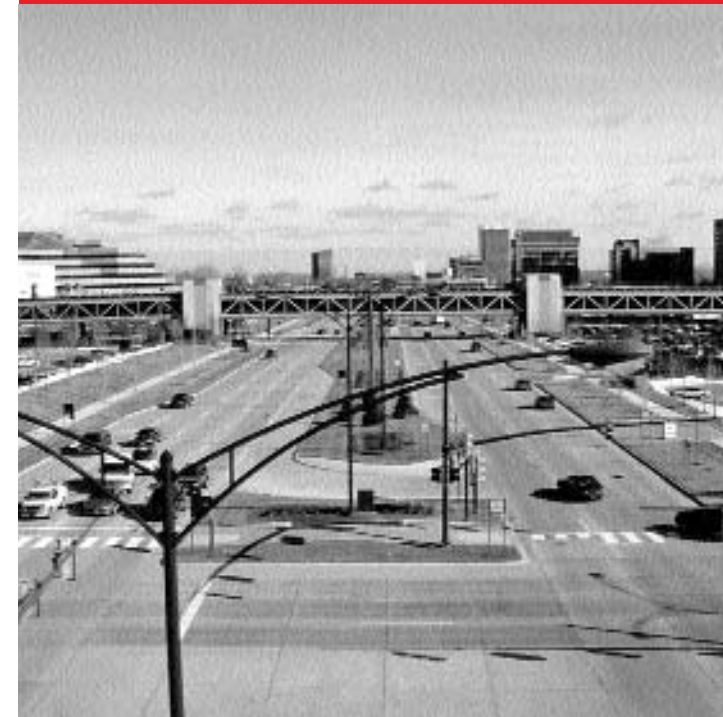
OR, visit RCOC online at

www.rcocweb.org

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ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

YOUR RCOC



- ◆ Road jurisdiction?
- ◆ Who runs it?
- ◆ How is it funded?

YOUR ROAD COMMISSION:

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

WHAT IS THE ROAD COMMISSION?

In Michigan, about 8 percent of all roads are state highways (including freeways). Cities and villages control 17 percent of roads. The remaining 75 percent fall under the jurisdiction of countywide governmental agencies known as road commissions.

The law enabling the creation of road commissions was adopted by the Michigan Legislature in 1909 (the Road Commission for Oakland County was established in 1913) to achieve two primary goals:

- To provide uniformity in road construction and maintenance across the state, and
- To provide efficient and economic road services for townships that, individually, cannot achieve the economies of scale of a countywide agency.

County road agencies save money, standardize road work and efficiently provide safe and convenient roads.

Road Commissions have no taxing authority and receive no direct revenue from property taxes. They receive most of their funds from fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. Fuel taxes, as user fees, are considered the most equitable way of paying for roads.



UNIQUE AMONG ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), maintains the largest county road system in the state and spends more on winter road maintenance annually (approximately \$7.5 million) than 60 Michigan county road commissions receive in state funding. RCOC spends more than \$1 million per year just on electricity for its traffic signals (more than the Keweenaw County Road Commission receives in state funding each year). It costs RCOC more for road projects than many other counties because of the high price of right of way in Oakland and because of soil problems caused by all the lakes and wetlands. Oakland is the largest “donor” county to the state in road funds (it sends more money to Lansing than it gets back).

WHAT ROADS BELONG TO RCOC?

County roads range from seven-lane thoroughfares to two-lane unpaved roads. Among the roads under RCOC’s jurisdiction are many major “mile-type” roads in cities and villages and all public roads in townships other than state highways. This includes more than 1,120 miles of residential subdivision streets in townships. State highways are identified with “I,” “M” or “US” signs, such as the Chrysler Freeway (I-75), Woodward Avenue (M-1) and Telegraph Road (US 24).

The Road Commission provides summer and winter maintenance on its roads and is contracted by MDOT to maintain state highways.

Because many people do not know road commissions are **separate** from county general government, in Oakland County the name was changed to the Road Commission **FOR** Oakland County to make it clearer and to emphasize a customer-service focus.

TECHNOLOGY

Some people may not associate road commissions with high technology. However, for more than a decade, RCOC has been on the cutting edge of road-related technology. In fact, RCOC is a national leader in using technology to make its road maintenance and improvement dollars accomplish as much as possible.

RCOC was one of the first public road agencies in the nation to introduce computerized “smart” traffic signals that actually monitor traffic flow and automatically adjust traffic signals based on the amount of traffic present at all times.

Today, its FAST-TRAC (Faster And Safer Travel through Traffic Routing & Advanced Controls) remains the largest system of its type in the nation (for more information about FAST-TRAC, visit the RCOC Web site at www.rcocweb.org). FAST-TRAC can be found along Southfield Road in Southfield, Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield Township, Big Beaver Road in Troy, Main Street in the Village of Milford, Novi Road in Novi and many other places across the county.

Additionally, RCOC is a partner with Wayne County,



the Road Commission of Macomb County and the City of Detroit in the operation of the Southeastern Michigan Snow and Ice Management (SEMSIM) program, which involves satellite-based vehicle tracking technology and other cutting-edge advancements for winter road maintenance across the metro Detroit region.



RCOC LEADERS

RCOC is governed by a three-member Board of Road Commissioners. Board members are: Larry P. Crane, Rudy D. Lozano and Richard G. Skarritt.

Board members are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for six-year terms. One member is appointed every two years. The Board members serve on a countywide basis, rather than from “districts.”

While the RCOC Board sets policy, day-to-day operations are run by Managing Director Brent O. Bair and Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer Dennis Kolar.

BOARD MEETINGS

RCOC Board meetings are open to the public and are conducted twice monthly on Thursday morning at 9 a.m. at the RCOC administrative offices, 31001 Lahser Road in Beverly Hills (a complete schedule of meetings is available at the RCOC Web site at www.rcocweb.org).